

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06149 140740Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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P 140702Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2276

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SHUM SOCI KS

SUBJ: PAGING EQUIPMENT FOR SEVERANCE HOSPITAL: RESPONSE TO US  
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

1. ON JUNE 16 SENATOR CARL T. CURTIS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO LOOK INTO THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY SEVERANCE HOSPITAL IN OBTAINING ROKG PERMISSION TO INSTALL A PAGING SYSTEM DONATED BY A US METHODIST MISSION ORGANIZATION. SENATOR CURTIS WAS WRITING ON BEHALF OF A CONSTITUENT, KEITH H. WYCOFF OF REACH ELECTRONICS.

2. EMBOFF INTERVIEWED DR. KIM HYU-KYU, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS AT SEVERANCE HOSPITAL ON JULY 13. DR. KIM, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AN EXTENSIVE TRIP VISITING MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EUROPE, IS THE OFFICIAL AT SEVERANCE HOSPITAL MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE PAGING SYSTEM.

3. DR. KIM CONFIRMED THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD NOT GIVEN SEVERANCE PERMISSION TO INSTALL THE PAGING EQUIPMENT. DR. KIM DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ROKG OBJECTS TO LETTING SEVERANCE INSTALL A PAGING CAPABILITY. THE PROBLEM IS PARTLY TECHNICAL BUT THERE ARE NATIONAL SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS AS WELL. ACCORDING TO DR. KIM, THE PAGING EQUIPMENT DONATED IS OF GREAT POWER. HE ESTIMATED ITS BROADCAST RADIUS AS  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06149 140740Z

500 KM. WITH THE SYSTEM CENTERED IN SEOUL, IT WOULD COVER TAEGU IN THE SOUTH AND PYONGYANG IN THE NORTH. THE ROKG FEELS THIS IS OBJECTIONABLE ON NATIONAL SECURITY GROUNDS. DR. KIM BELIEVES THERE MAY WELL BE MERIT IN THIS VIEW, AND HE POINTS OUT THAT SEVERANCE DOES NOT NEED TO PAGE IN SO GREAT AN EXPANSE OF TERRITORY.

4. DR. KIM IS ONCE AGAIN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. ALTERNATIVES BEING EXPLORED  
ARE MODIFYING THE POWER OF THE DONATED UNIT SO THAT IT  
WILL COVER JUST THE AREA REQUIRED BY SEVERANCE (SEOUL  
AND AS FAR SOUTH AS ANYANG) OR ACQUIRING ANOTHER PAGING  
SYSTEM LESS POWERFUL THAN THE ONE ON HAND. DR. KIM  
PROMISED TO KEEP THE EMBASSY POSTED ON HIS PROGRESS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD TAKE  
THIS CASE UP WITH THE ROKG AT THIS POINT SINCE PARTIES  
SEEM TO BE WORKING TOGETHER IN GOOD WILL TO ARRIVE AT  
MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION.  
STERN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, HOSPITALS, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, PROGRESS REPORTS  
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**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, SHUM, SOCI, KS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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